



Nov Highlights

- **11/1, Sun 10:00 AM**
Nov Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service
- **11/2, Mon 7:30 PM**
Religious Planning Mtg
- **11/7, Sat**
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Fall Ohigan Seminar
- **11/8, Sun 10:00 AM**
Eitaikyo Service
Guest Speaker: Rev. George Matsubayashi, BCA Minister emeritus

12:00 PM
Keiro-Kai Luncheon
- **11/11, Wed 7:30 PM**
Temple Board Mtg
- **11/22, Sun 10:00 AM**
Coast District Nembutsu Family Conference
(San Jose Betsuin)
No Services at Temple
- **11/26-28 Thu-Sat**
Thanksgiving Holidays
(Office Closed)

In Every Issue

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MOUNTAIN VIEW BUDDHIST TEMPLE

Volume 48 Number 10

The Last Dance

*How joyous I am,
Gutoku Shinran,
disciple of Sakyamuni!*

*.. Reverently entrusting
myself to the teaching,
practice, and realization of
the Pure Land way,*

*I am especially aware
of the profundity of
the Buddha's benevolence.*

*Here, I rejoice in
what I have heard and extol
what I have attained.*

I write as I am about to leave for Japan to attend the Hongwanji Overseas Districts

Leadership Seminar, representing our Buddhist Churches of America. Part of the seminar includes the 750th Memorial Observance for Shinran at his mausoleum.



Our BCA will observe this 750 Memorial in February, 2010 in San Jose. And we will

gather again in May, 2011 at our Kyoto Hongwanji Headquarters to commemorate this once in a lifetime event—marking 750 years since the death of the founder of the Jodo Shinshu tradition of Buddhism. To be remembered 750 years afterwards is truly a remarkable accomplishment.

This year marks my 20th year as a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist minister. As a minister, it is common to conduct the 49th day Memorial, 1st year, 3rd, 7th, and even a 25th annual Memorial service. So far, I have done only one or two



The BCA observance of Shinran Shonin's 750th Memorial will be February 27-28, 2010

Rarer than "Once in a Lifetime"

By Ron Murata

at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose. On Saturday, the 27th, there will be afternoon and evening programs including a Symposium and Banquet. The Memorial Observance will be on Sunday, the 28th. This

month a separate ECHO mailing of flyers describing the activities as well as a registration form is being sent out.

I encourage all adults to attend the Symposium and Banquet on Saturday. (Please complete the registration

november 2009

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<p>1</p> <p>8:30 AM Morning chanting 10:00 AM Sunday Service/Shotsuki Hoyo 11:00 AM Dharma School 11:30 AM YBA meeting 12:00 PM Taiko 12:15 PM YBA/YBA hall refreshments</p>	<p>2</p> <p>11:00 AM Senior Activity comm. meeting 7:00 PM Girl Scouts 7:00 PM Kendo 7:00 PM Religious Planning comm. meeting</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:00 PM Taiko 7:00 PM Shodo Kai</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:00 AM Omigaki 7:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Scouts & parents meeting 7:30 PM Tri-City Youth Group meeting</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:00 AM Senior activity/crafts 6:00 PM Taiko</p>	<p>6</p> <p>4:30 PM Calligraphy class 7:00 PM Fuji Club</p>	<p>7</p> <p>12:00 PM Scouts set up/Sangha Hall 9:00 AM Fall Ohigan Seminar</p>																																																																																																		
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Updated 10/16/2009 (events subject to change)

Mountain View Buddhist Temple

The Last Dance. (Cont'd from Page 1)

50th annual Memorial Services, and still haven't conducted a 100th year Memorial Service.

Why? The obvious answer is that by the time a 50th Year memorial service comes around, the remaining family members usually forget. And in many cases, the current family and relatives do not even know or have never met the person for whom the 50th year service is held.

This is why it is important to conduct the Eitaikyo service, which will be on November 8th. For many of those listed on an Eitaikyo registered list, there may be no family members to conduct a memorial service in their honor. So we, even as non-family, conduct it to recognize and remember the significance of their lives.

Why is it important to remember those people who are so distant to us in time and space? Why is it important to remember those people who lived and died perhaps before we were ever born?

The simple answer is that their lives contributed to the formation of a cause that allows us to hear the Buddha Dharma. By the simple virtue that they lived and died and

perhaps had a service at the o-tera or temple, they leave for us an opportunity to come face to face with the teachings of the Buddha.

Hearing the Dharma is so important, especially to hear the dharma of Nembutsu as understood by Shinran.

Shinran was able to look and reflect upon himself realistically, and discovered that no matter how much he tried to attain enlightenment, he couldn't do it alone. At first he took great pride in his accomplishments, but that, got him not one step closer to Enlightenment.

It wasn't until he was able to swallow his pride and seek the help of the great teacher Honen that things finally became clear for him. It was Honen who said, "Person of the Pure Land tradition attains birth in the Pure Land by becoming their foolish selves."

Last month, our ABA group sponsored a benefit dance for the Center for Buddhist Studies titled "Reunited". It was a wonderful event. It not only reunited a dance band popular in the late 60's and early 70's, but also many friends who enjoyed going to dances and conferences.

Our Sangha Hall was transformed into a beautifully decorated ballroom with tables, decorative lights, bar, photo area, and of course a plentiful dance area. Although the music was a little "old" for me, it still made my toe tap to the beat.

Unfortunately, that is all that moved that night. I don't dance. I enjoy going to dances. I love a live band. I love the music. I love watching others swirl and twirl and strut their stuff. I just don't dance.

My wife, Linda, understands this. So I was very pleased when she got several invitations from others to dance. I was happy as a clam enjoying the music, my drink, the company and the festivities.

I, too, received several invitations to dance, which I politely but graciously declined. At first some of them just ventured off

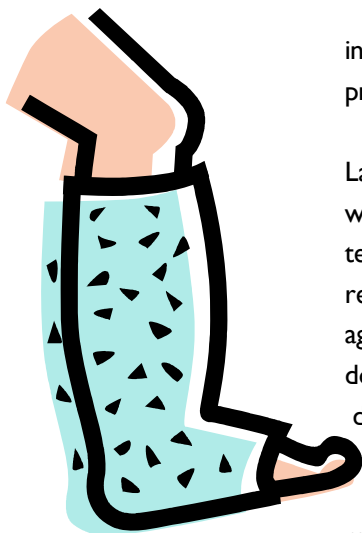


**Person
of the
Pure Land tradition
attains
birth
in the Pure Land
by
becoming
their foolish selves**



The ECHO

The Last Dance (Cont'd from Page 3)



in search for a more willing prey, I mean partner.

Later in the evening, some women became more persistent. I had to tell them that I recently (a couple of months ago) injured my Achilles tendon so I couldn't dance. They didn't buy that excuse and it almost became a wrestling match trying to get me off my seat. Sometimes it pays to be overweight because after a while they gave up and I was victorious in my stand (or actually, my chair).

Thinking upon this incident, I have truly become ashamed

of my actions. In my mind, I could imagine looking uncoordinated, and that lacking any sense of rhythm or coolness, I would scare everyone off the dance floor. I didn't want to look like a fool.

But upon further reflection, I began wondering: What would it have hurt to get up and dance? It would have made my wife happy. It would have made those ladies who asked me to dance happy (I think, until I started moving and grooving in every direction.) What prevented me from dancing and participating in the fun?

It was my ego.



I was so full of pride that I didn't want to make a fool of myself. Sometimes we are afraid to try something because of fear of failure and the fear of looking like a fool.

YBA Halloween Party October 24

YBA recently helped out at the Sangha day picnic, we were in charge of the morning walk, games, crafts, and the 50/50 raffle. **We raised \$275.00 to donate for the Hunger Project in Africa.**

Coming up we have our **YBA Halloween party on October 24th.** We plan on going to Gyro's scream fest and afterwards, head back to the temple to carve pumpkins.

Also the excitement is growing as the CC Conference in Fresno on November 14th

and 15th comes closer and closer. We plan on doing more activities this year to make this year even better than last!

In Gassho,

Haley Sugimoto
YBA President 2009-2010



President's Message (cont'd from Page 1)

form and send it in to the Temple office by January 10th, 2010.) I believe you will find this day very meaningful. However, if you can only attend one day, I encourage the whole family to attend on Sunday and participate in the Memorial Observance and the subsequent musical program, "Take Refuge in Pure Music".

The Memorial Observance will include new renditions of chanting the Shoshinge and Wasan. The musical program will include "Shinran Sama" to be sung in Japanese by a choir comprised of BCA members and three songs – "May Peace Prevail", "Shinran's Family", and "What Buddha Means to Me" – are to be sung by all participants.

The songs and music for the musical program have been

sent to each of the Temple's affiliated organizations. All organizations are encouraged to plan activities for learning these songs.

Hearing, practicing and learning to chant the new renditions of the Shoshinge and Wasan will be the focus for the Mountain View Buddhist Temple's Fall Ohigan seminar schedule for Saturday, November 7th. The new renditions will also be a key part of the Coast District Nembutsu Family Conference, held on Sunday, November 22nd, at the San Jose Betsuin (See information flyer and registration form in this issue of the ECHO).

Finally, the BCA is planning a video montage of BCA members singing "Many, But One" – song of circle, triangle and square. All Temple-affiliated

organizations and any new groups are encouraged to practice the song and videotape themselves. All videotaped segments will be compiled onto a DVD and must be sent to the BCA by December 1, 2009. The BCA will compile the segments from all Temples into a single DVD which will be played at the 750th Memorial Observance. Information about and instructions for preparing a videotaped segment have been provided to all Temple-affiliated organizations.

The Shinran Shonin 750th Memorial Observance is rarer than once in a lifetime. I encourage everyone to find a way to participate in this extraordinary event.

Ron Murata
Temple President

SAVE THE DATE—DECEMBER 13, 2009

MVBT Mochitsuki Fundraiser

Enjoy the Fun. Be a Volunteer.

More details to follow.



The ECHO

One Time. One Meeting. Once in a Lifetime. (Cont'd from Page 4)

When we
 let go
 of our
 ego...
 We are able to
 enjoy and
 live
 this life
 to its
 fullest potential

Yet, this is the point that Shinran, through his teacher Honen also discovered. "Person of the Pure Land tradition attains birth in the Pure Land by becoming their foolish selves."

What this means is that for the first time we can truly be who we are. We don't have to pretend to be perfect. We don't have to pretend to be experts. We don't have to be afraid of making mistakes.

As I reflect upon the upcoming 750th Memorial Services for Shinran, I am reminded of the name he pre-

fers to call himself, Gu-toku. Gu (愚) means stupid, foolish and dim-witted. Toku (禿) means receding hairline, becoming bald or stubble haired.

So Shinran referred to himself as the foolish stubbly haired Shinran.

Isn't that strange?

When parents discover they are about to have a baby born into this world, they think of names that will capture a virtue or wonderful potential with the hopes that the baby will grow and fulfill them.

But Shinran chose the name, Gu-toku to remind him how strong the influence of ego can be. It is when we are able to let go of our ego, that we realize unobstructed freedom to be able to enjoy and live this life to its fullest potential.

With Shinran's name as a reminder, I promise at the next dance to let go of my ego and go out there and boogie. (Hopefully by then, I would have taken a dance lesson or two.)

**Gassho,
 Rev. Dean**



MVBT 50TH
anniversary meeting

November 23, Monday 7:00PM

All the committees will be making their program report.

It is important to set the tone of the type of the celebration planned.

The 50th anniversary project will also be determined. 2011 is just around the corner. Every organization is asked to be represented. Please attend

Presentation on Elder Care November 19

Nov 5th, 12th & 19th

Senior Activity and Craft, 9:00 AM until 12 noon.

November 19th, Thu

This will be our end of year session. In addition to our regularly-scheduled crafts activities, at 11:30AM we will provide a special year end lunch.

Guest speaker, Penny Xu, from the Willie Care Home II will explain the various levels of elder care. She will also outline the differences among residential care home, assisted living, rehabili-

tation, and skilled nursing homes. We will ask for information on eligibility of Veterans Hospital.

After the presentation, "Free" bingo games will be held. Please plan to join us.

Our gratitude to the many who made donations and helped at the "White Elephant Sale." **Credit to Reiko Murakami for undertaking this chairmanship.** She did a tremendous job to make this White Elephant event the best to date.

We would not be able to function without the help of the hard working ladies who create all the beautiful and handy craft items for our senior craft booths. We are able to subsidize the many trips and lunches through these efforts.

We want to express our sincere gratitude for the many monetary and material donations that we continue to receive. These donations enhance the operation of our program.

ありがとう

**Senior
Activities
—November**

Don't Miss BWA Udon Luncheon Fundraiser December 6

BWL CONFERENCE

The 41st Federation BWL Conference, held in Sacramento October 9-11, 2009, was well attended with 500 members from all over the country. The ten Mountain View BWA ladies were impressed with the well-organized program, the services, workshops, and luncheon and banquet. They have expressed gratitude for the very enriching experience.

NOVEMBER SERVICES

BWA to chair the following Sunday services:

Nov 1st: —*Shotsuki Hoyo*

Nov 15th—*Regular service*

Nov 29th—*Eshinni Ko and Kakushinni Ko Special Service*
Guest minister: Rev Ryo Imamura

Religious chairperson, Marie Ochi-Jacobs, will be contacting members to participate in these services.

BWA FUNDRAISER

December 6, 2009, 11:00 AM
Udon luncheon in Sangha Hall

**Take-outs available
\$5.00 per ticket**

Tickets may be purchased from BWA members and at the temple office. BWA expresses its deep appreciation for everyone's support.

Preparations for the luncheon: Friday and Saturday, Dec 4th and 5th, 8 AM to 12 Noon.

DONATIONS

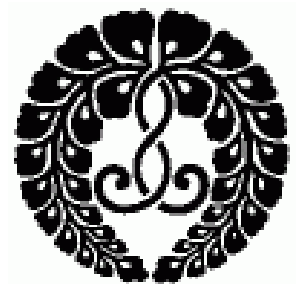
Gratefully acknowledged

Sue Haruta Stokes

In memory of mother, Mary Haruta (\$200)

NEXT MEETING

SAT, Nov 14, 2009, 9:00 AM



**Buddhist
Women's
Association**

The ECHO

Come Join Fuji Club

This is a chance for girls to get together and learn Japanese crafts and cooking.

Meetings are the 2nd Friday of each month in the ECHO room—YBA Hall from 7-9 pm.



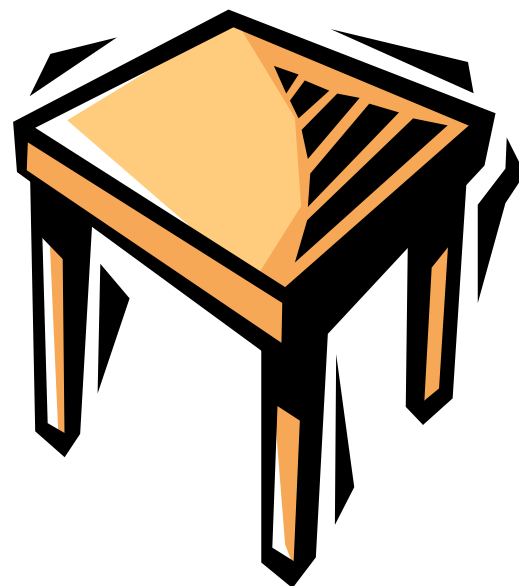
Girls 8 years and older are welcome to come. Come after basketball practice, even if you arrive late.

For questions, please contact Jean Higa

8' Tables Available for Free

New lightweight tables have been procured for the Dharma School Classrooms. The old 8' long tables from the classrooms are no longer needed and are available to Temple members for the taking.

The tables are stacked behind the classrooms and covered by blue tarps. Any Temple member who can use a table is welcome to select and take as many tables as he/she wishes.



In gassho,

Temple Board

Club 150 News

At the October 14th Board meeting, the winner for October, 2009, was Roy Matsuzaki. 2 more monthly drawings plus the big bonus drawing in December. You still have a chance. Good luck.

The 2010-150 tickets will be available after the Nov. Board meeting. Check with your zone chairman. Thank you for participating in the 2009-150 Club.

Toban/Revised Echo Schedule

	Toban	Echo	Article Deadline
NOV	Zones 9 & 10	Nov 19	Nov 13
DEC	Zones 11 & 12	Dec 17	Dec 11
JAN	Zones 13 & 1	Jan 21	Jan 15

Please note the revised article deadline, printing dates and email submission process. This is provide time to layout in the new format. Thank you.

Email all articles to echo@mvbuddhisttemple.org

Religious Planning Committee Report—November

MVBT Services

The Buddhist Women's Association (BWA) will chair Sunday Services for November.

Oct. 25th Services

A special Halloween celebration with the Dharma School. The students are encouraged to wear their Halloween costumes and will parade in the Hondo prior to going to their Dharma School classes.

Nov. 8th—Eitaikyo Service

Eitaikyo Service and our Keiro Kai luncheon and program following service. Rev. George Matsubayashi, recently retired from the Los Angeles Betsuin will be our guest speaker that day.

Eitaikyo can be translated as "perpetual sutra" and is a memorial service to honor all who have ensured that future generations can hear the Dharma and have contributed to the growth of the Sangha, especially those in a special Eitaikyo registry. Anyone interested in learning more about Eitaikyo or our Temple's Eitaikyo registry, please contact Rev. Koyama.

Nov. 22nd—Coast District Nembutsu Family Conference

No services at MVBT. The

By John Arima

Coast District Nembutsu Family Conference will be held that weekend in San Jose. Part of the focus of this conference will be preparing those who will be attending the BCA's 750th Memorial Observance of Shinran Shonin in February, 2010 for a new way in which the Shoshinge will be chanted. Please register for the Conference through our Temple Office.



Nov. 29th—

Eshinni-Kakushinni Service

BWA will hold the annual Eshinni-Kakushinni Memorial with guest speaker Rev. Ryo Imamura. Please come out and support our BWA at their special annual event.

Upcoming Events

Nov. 7th—Fall Ohigan Seminar

The Fall Ohigan Seminar will focus on the Shoshinge, by Shinran Shonin, which will be used for the BCA's 750th Memorial Observance in Feb,

2010. Contact John Arima if you would like to help plan for the Fall Ohigan Seminar

Other Buddhist Education Opportunities

The June "Inspired by Shinran Shonin Monthly Dharmathon & Chazuke Chat" session from the Center for Buddhist Education (CBE) will be on Nov. 16th from 12:00 to 12:45 at the Jodo Shinshu Center (JSC) in Berkeley.

The Dharmathon will be followed by a discussion session (the Chazuke Chat) lasting until 1:30. Please bring a "brown bag" lunch if you wish. A \$2 donation for ochazuke is requested.

The CBE's 3rd Annual Baby Boomers Seminar to be held on Nov. 14 at the JSC. The theme is Our Path to Wholeness with guest speakers Rev. Marvin Harada from the Orange County Buddhist Temple and Dr. Nobuo Haneda from the Maida Center of Buddhism. Registration is \$75 for BCA members (\$100 non-members) due Oct. 24th. More information and registration forms available online.

december 2009

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<p>6</p> <p>8:30 AM Morning chanting 10:00 AM Sunday Service/Shotsuki Hoyo/Bodhi Day 11:00 AM Dharma School 11:30 AM BWA/Sangha Hall/Udon fundraiser 11:30 AM YBA meeting 12:00 PM Taiko 12:15 PM YBA/YBA Hall</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:00 PM Girl Scouts 7:00 PM Kendo 7:00 PM Religious Planning comm. meeting 7:00 PM Tri-City Newsletter</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:00 PM Taiko 6:30 PM Tri-City Newsletter/Echo room</p>	<p>9</p> <p>8:30 AM Wash barrels 7:00 PM Cub Scouts & Scouts 7:30 PM Temple Board meeting</p>	<p>10</p> <p>4:00 PM PACT (Mayor Margaret Abe Koga)/Sangha Hall 6:00 PM Taiko (cancel)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8:00 AM Wash rice 4:30 PM Calligraphy class 7:00 PM ABA meeting/conf. room & YBA Hall ECHO DEADLINE</p>	<p>12</p> <p>8:00 AM Final set up mochi equipment 9:00 AM BWA meeting 10:00 AM Kinyu Kai 5:00 PM Scouts Court of Honor/game room 6:00 PM Fuji Club & Scouts party/Sangha Hall/pancake & game room 6:00 PM Tri-City Youth Group Christmas party/Sangha Hall</p>																																																	
<p>13</p> <p>5:00 AM Mochitsuki 12:00 PM Mochi pick up 12:00 PM Taiko 9:00 PM Janitorial clean up/Sangha Hall</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7:00 PM Kendo</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:00 PM Taiko</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:00 PM Cub Scouts & Scouts</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:00 PM Echo 6:00 PM Taiko</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>																																																	
<p>20</p> <p>10:00 AM Osoji (clean up day)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:30 PM Girl Scouts OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>22</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:00 PM Cub Scouts & Scouts OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>24</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>25</p> <p>CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>26</p>																																																	
<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>29</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>30</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7:00 PM Joya-e Year-end Service (Toshi-koshi soba) Bonenkai OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p style="text-align: center;">January 10</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </table> </div>		S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						
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Updated 10/16/2009 (events subject to change)

Mountain View Buddhist Temple

Shotsuki Hoyo (Monthly Memorial Service)

The Shotsuki (Monthly Memorial) Services are conducted and sponsored by the temple in memory of the past members who have passed away during a given month. It is not meant to be a substitute for families to observe their Family Memorial Service for their loved ones. The Shotsuki loved ones are:

November
Monthly
Memorial
Service

Sunday
November 1

10:00 am

Tsutomu Akizuki

Frank Furuichi

Sunao Furusho

Hana Furuto

Casey Hamada

Mari Anne Hamada

Eddie Higuchi

George Hirota

Fred Hoshi

Akira Hoshiko

Tom Ichikawa

Frank Ikebe

Irene Kakigi

Hideo Kato

Shigeaki Kihara

Eugene Kono

Kinuyo Kunimoto

Shigeko Masaki

Gregory Matsumoto

Rose Morimoto

Haruko Nakamura

Yutaka Nakano

Ayako Nakashima

Teiichi Naritomi

Yoshio Nishimoto

Nobuo Oda

Walter Okino

Roy Ozawa

Tom Ozawa

Ichiro Sakae

Kosue Sakae

Akira Sasaki

Seikichi Shimoguchi

Sei Tachibana

Alice Takagi

Mildred Takegami

Kay Tanouye

If a name has been inadvertently left off or you would like to add a family member to the Mountain View Buddhist Temple list of Shotsuki names, please contact Rev. Koyama/

E-mail

dkoyama@comcast.net

Phone (temple office)

650 964-9426

*The Mountain View Buddhist Temple would like to express
its heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of:*

Mollie Yoshizumi

October 3, 2009



*May you find comfort in the embrace of Infinite Light and Life,
the wisdom and compassion of Amida Buddha.*

Namo Amida Butsu

The ECHO

Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Class—Easy Path/Hard Path

The following is from the JSCC Jodo Shinshu I section. As always, I strongly encourage anyone who is interested in learning more about Buddhism and our Jodo Shinshu traditions to sign up for the JSCC. Please note that this example is simply my response to the question posed by the course and not the best or the only answer to this question.

Question:

Despite the fact that Jodo Shinshu is sometimes referred to as the “Easy Path”, we often hear people comment on how difficult it is to understand the teachings. Write an essay commenting on your thoughts on the “Easy Path” and why it may seem to be so hard to understand.

John’s Response:

The term “Easy Path” in Jodo Shinshu is often taken out of context. For one to best understand the term “Easy Path” it must be directly compared to the term “Difficult Path”. In traditional “Difficult Path” beliefs, one must commit to many practices over the course of a long period of time (sometimes over multiple lifetimes) while relying on Self Power to keep to this path.

By John Arima



Zen Icons Kanzan & Jittoku

T’an-luan defined the difference between “Easy Path” and “Difficult Path” with an emphasis on the reliance of “Difficult Path” on Self Power. It is this reliance on Self Power that allows the possibility of continually falling back into the world of delusion.

Often when we try to understand “Difficult Path”, we refer to the practices performed in Zen Buddhism. From the book *Zen Mind, Beginner’s Mind* by Shunryu Suzuki, the following passage discusses zazen practice.

“We should practice Zen with the same sincerity as Buddha. If originally we have Buddha nature, the reason we practice zazen is that we must behave like Buddha. So we have to harmonize our spirit, our physical posture, and our activity with the traditional way.”

This strict mindfulness toward the Soto Zen practices is what requires the use of Self Power to maintain. However, we must remember that beyond the strict practices, there is still the basic understanding that all sentient beings have the capacity for Buddha nature. Again from *Zen Mind, Beginner’s Mind*:

“Before Bodhidharma, people thought that after a long preparation, sudden enlightenment would come. Thus Zen practice was a kind of training to gain enlightenment. Actually, many people today are practicing zazen with this idea. But this is not

Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Class—Easy Path/Hard Path

the traditional understanding of Zen. The understanding passed down from Buddha to our time is that when you start zazen, there is enlightenment even without preparation. Whether you practice zazen or not, you have Buddha nature. Because you have it, there is enlightenment in your practice.”

We can see from this passage that practice by itself is not the path to enlightenment; the path to enlightenment is what enables one to practice.

{Note: This passage from Zen Mind, Beginner’s Mind refers to a theory of original enlightenment which claims all sentient beings are originally enlightened and need to nurture that “seed” to achieve the “flowering” of their enlightenment. This differs from Shinran’s view on Buddha nature. Shinran felt that he could find no “seed” of enlightenment within himself and that in order to gain Buddha nature and shinjin he must be transformed by the Other Power of Amida’s Vow.}

If we compare the “Easy Path” practice of reciting Nembutsu with the “Difficult Path” practice of zazen posture in Soto Zen we can eas-

ily see the difference between the physical and time consumption requirements.

In the Larger Sutra, there is a description of three different levels of practice which all result in birth in the Pure Land. The most difficult level is monastic practice, the middle level is of lay people who do meritorious deeds and the lowest level is people who cannot do meritorious deeds but think of the Buddha ten times.

This concept was further changed by various interpretations of the Contemplation Sutra and became the Nembutsu practices of reciting “Namo Amida Butsu”. Honen Shonin further developed the thinking and taught that saying the Name is the practice which Amida Buddha is referring to in the Primal Vow and that all other practices should be set aside.

Nembutsu practice allowed ordinary people who had jobs and families and other things which occupied their lives and could not undertake the strict adherence to such things as zazen practice a path to enlightenment. From the book Shinran – An Introduction to His Thought by Yoshifumi Ueda and Dennis

Hirota, the following passage is credited to T’an-luan:

“In the path of easy practice, one aspires to be born in the Pure Land with solely one’s entrusting to the Buddha as the cause, and allowing oneself to be carried by the power of the Buddha’s Vow, one quickly attains birth in the land of purity. Supported by the Buddha’s power, one immediately joins the truly settled of the Mahayana.”

Because the name “Easy Path” sets an expectation of ease, the implication is that recitation of the Name can be casually practiced with the result of attaining enlightenment. What is lacking in this interpretation of “Easy Path” is the aspect of absolute entrusting in the Other Power of Amida’s Primal Vow. While the physical demands of “Easy Path” are low, there is great difficulty in the actually being able to absolutely entrust in the Primal Vow. The paradox of the ease of physically performing Nembutsu practice versus the difficulty of absolutely entrusting in Amida’s Primal Vow is what makes “Easy Path” so hard to understand.

The ECHO

ABA's Reunited a Hit!

After more than a year of planning, the Mountain View Buddhist Temple ABA presented “**Reunited**” on September 19, a fundraising dance to benefit the BCA/Center for Buddhist Education.



Over 300 people attended, coming from throughout the Bay Area and beyond—Southern Cal to Sacramento to Seattle, with ages ranging from 20-somethings to 70-somethings.

The ambient lighting created a club-like atmosphere, and the décor was resplendent with 33 rpm album covers, a prom-type photo op background, retro dance bids, and a continuous slide show depicting many of us in “better days”.

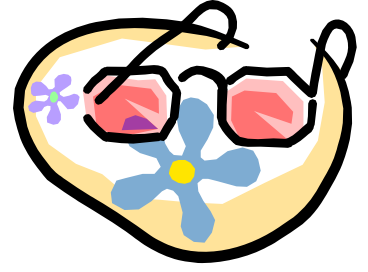
Sensei-sightings included Rev. Kodo Umezu, Rev. Dennis Shinseki, and Rev. Ron Kobata, along with our own Rev. Koyama.

With an overwhelming turnout and the support of generous donations from others, the Mtn. View ABA was able to present a check for \$7,500 to the CBE via the Campaign BCA ... the 21st century.

Highlighting the evening was music by “Somethin’ Else”, one of the most popular bands that played at Asian functions throughout Northern California in the late 60’s and early 70’s. Three of the original members of the band performed at this event—Mike Ishii, Mike Sasaki, and Ted Canty. After months of practice, the band performed over 30 songs from those “good ole’ days” and kept the dance floor lively all night.



What started out as just a good idea, became a much-anticipated event, thanks to the diligence and creativity of



the committee members—

Ken and Mieko Nakano
Russ and Judy Nakano
Ron and Carolyn Murata,
Norm and Adele Sato
Dennis Tsukagawa
Sterling, Joanne, and
Aly Makishima

Of course, it takes many more people besides the committee to make an event so successful.

Thank-you to the following ABA members who helped with set-up, food preparation, donations, and/or clean-up:

Sumi and Chuck Uyeda, Jean and Jits Higa, Joyce and Tom Tamaru, Reiko and Steve Tsuchida, Alice and Sadao Ishida, Ann and Min Uyehara, Marilyn and Irv Ozawa, Eileen and Richard Fujikawa, Irene Uchiyama, Haruye Hoshi, Alice Ikenaga, Jeannie Ohara, Kimi Nishimura, Jane Miyashiro, Emi Mori, Aggie and Gary Hirotsu, Kiki Yonemoto, Akio Yamamoto, Aiko Sugimoto, Miyo Take-

ABA's *Reunited* a Hit!

gami, Mel and Audrey Inouye, Kay and Go Sasaki, Milton and Helen Hamasaki, Marie Ochi-Jacobs and Alan Jacobs, and Julie Ushiba. Other Sangha members who contributed were Donna and Brad Takasuka, Rumbo Tsukagawa, Leslie Imai, Noreen Ikeuye, Mitsue Fukuda, Doug Sawamura, and Sharon Tsukahara. In addition, committee family members and friends volunteered their time at the beverage

bar and registration. They were Cindy and Angie Nakano, Courtney Ramos, Kristi and Kelsey Nakano (loved the wigs!), Ricky Chu and Anthony Ross (loved the Afros!), Courtney and Lesley Makishima, Thai Nguyen, Erin and Lauren Yamamoto, Hoang Huynh, Maria Rodrigues, Doug Ikegami, Sandi Katsuyama, and Ryan Hayamizu (CD's). The committee and Mtn. View ABA wish to thank all who participated in

and supported this event, which exceeded all of our expectations, and in turn allowed us to give financial benefit to the CBE. In short, it was quite a night!

Come join the fun! Join ABA! We will have our annual new members' dinner on Friday, November 13, 2009 beginning at 6pm. Interested? Please call Reiko Tsuchida or Sterling Makishima.



Dharma School



Coast District Activity Day & Nembutsu Conference—November 22nd

The Nembutsu Family Conference will be held in conjunction with the Coast District Activity Day on **Nov 22 at the San Jose Betsuin**. Fun activities are planned for both adults and children. Everyone is invited, including Dharma School students, parents and teachers.

Spring Dana Drive—Update

Thank you to everyone for contributing to the backpack drive for Family Giving Tree. We provided 33 backpacks and collected \$90 for Family Giving Tree's campaign, which in total donated nearly 14,000 backpacks to children from low-income families in Santa Clara, San Mateo, San Francisco and Alameda counties. Thank you so much for your support.

November Services

- 11/1** Shotsuki Hoyo Service and Dharma School
- 11/8** Eitaiko Service, Dharma School and Keiro Kai Luncheon
- 11/15** Sunday Service & Dharma School
- 11/22** Nembutsu Family Conference and Coast District Activity Day (SJ Betsuin. No service at Temple)
- 11/29** Sunday Service and Eshinni-ko & Kakushinni-ko Service

**DISCOVER THE WHITE PATH
2009 NEMBUTSU FAMILY CONFERENCE**

Sunday, November 22, 2009

San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin

640 N. 5th Street, San Jose, CA 95112. Phone: 408-293-9292

Greetings!

This year the Nembutsu Family Conference will be a multigenerational event, focusing on the life of Shinran Shonin, in preparation for the Shinran Shonin 750th Memorial Service, which will be held in February 2010. We invite you to “preview” the new Shoshinge and very musical Wasan.

Since we will be conducting the Conference in conjunction with the Coast District Activity Day, there are fun activities planned for both adults and children, including a walk to “Discover the White Path.”

We will provide free childcare for a limited number of children ages 2 through 4. Children must be potty trained.

Everyone is invited, including Dharma School students, parents, teachers, ABA members, BWA members, and friends. We encourage you all to come and “Discover the White Path” of Shinran Shonin.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITES

Registration	8:30-9:00 AM
Opening Service	9:00-10:00 AM
Workshop (Wasan Discussion)	10:15-11:45 AM
Lunch	11:45 - 12:30 PM
Workshop/activity	12:45 - 2:00 PM
Closing Service	2:15 – 3:00 PM

**DISCOVER THE WHITE PATH
2009 NEMBUTSU FAMILY CONFERENCE**

Sunday, November 22, 2009

San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin

640 N. 5th Street, San Jose, CA 95112. Phone: 408-293-9292

Registration

Names of attendees (Please provide ages of children):

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____

Address: _____

Telephone numbers: _____

Temple Affiliation: _____

Conference Registration: \$10.00 X _____ = _____
Total _____

Bento Lunch included: # _____ Regular # _____ Vegetarian

Childcare: Number of children _____

(Childcare is available for potty-trained children aged 2 through 4. Space is limited.)

Japanese Language preference for workshops: yes/no # _____

Mail registration and payment payable to Mtn. View Buddhist Temple to:

Temple Office or turn in to

John Arima or Ron Murata

Registration deadline: Sunday, November 15, 2009

If you have any questions, please contact: Gail Sueki at gsueki@yahoo.com

The ECHO



Mountain View Buddhist Temple

575 N. Shoreline Boulevard, Mountain View, CA 94043-3102 Phone: 650-964-9426

Hiroji and Yasuko Kariya Chair for Buddhist Religious Education Studies

Earlier in the year, Hiroji Kariya, with the consent from his family made a pledge to the BCA's 21st Century campaign to establish an Endowment Professorial Chair for the Institute of Buddhist Studies. This Chair is to be named the "Hiroji and Yasuko Kariya Chair for Buddhist Religious Education Studies." The vision for this Chair is to allow IBS to expand its faculty thereby propagating the Jodo Shinshu teachings more effectively here in the United States. Hiroji Kariya was recently conferred with the first Honorary Doctorate degree from the IBS in recognition of his selfless support of his many years of service as the IBS Board of Trustees Chairman. However, Hiroji recognized that he was not able to do what he did without the help, encouragement and support that he received from his family and, in particular, from his wife, Yasuko. Therefore, he established this Professorial Chair in her memory.

In order to establish this Chair, Hiroji will be making an annual payment of \$50K beginning in 2009 throughout his lifetime. His estate will provide any remaining balance.

Here at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple, I think we can help make this vision become a reality as well. We have been the recipients of Yasuko's many years of dedication as a member of the temple and her leadership as our BWA president. Let us join the Kariya Family in the cause of being able to provide an Institution capable of a high quality education and training for our future ministers and scholars. In the long run, this will not just benefit the IBS and the BCA, but will benefit all of us at the local temples ensuring that the Jodo Shinshu teachings remain vital, relevant and available to all in the United States. If you have already made your contribution to the BCA's 21 Century Campaign, thank you. If you haven't yet done so or would like to make an additional contribution, may I suggest that you please consider making a pledge or donation to the "Hiroji and Yasuko Kariya Chair for Buddhist Religious Education Studies." This would be a wonderful way for us to remember Yasuko Kariya.

**Gassho,
Rev. Dean Koyama**

Cut here and return to BCA Campaign Office – 2140 Durant Ave., Berkeley, CA 94704

Yes, I'd like to support BCA and its many fine programs!

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____ Temple: _____
 Phone: (____) _____ E-mail : _____

Please accept my pledge/contribution:

- \$100,000 \$50,000 \$25,000 \$10,000
 \$5,000 \$1,000 Other: \$ _____

Your pledge contribution can be made in installments of 3 to 5 years. Please contact the BCA Campaign Office for details.

Please designate my gift to:

- Unrestricted (may be allocated, based on need)
- Jodo Shinshu Center
- Center for Buddhist Education (Operations)
- Center for Buddhist Education (Endowment)
- Ministerial Benefits
- Institute of Buddhist Studies Endowment (Specify: _____)
- Institute of Buddhist Studies Hiroji and Yasuko Kariya Chair

Ask about Pledge Plans, Donor Wall and Commemorative Naming Opportunities!
 BCA Campaign Office – 510-809-1453 – e-mail: info@bcacampaign.org

Please make check payable to: **Campaign BCA – The 21st Century** and mail to:
 BCA Campaign Office, 2140 Durant Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94704

In this Echo—Many Activities for November



As Thanksgiving approaches, Temple members have many activities to participate in. They include:

11/8-Eitai-kyo Service and Keiro Kai Luncheon

11/22 Nembutsu Family Conference in San Jose

Happy Thanksgiving to all!

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You can also find a color pdf version online at:
www.mvbuddhisttemple.org

**In gassho,
The Echo Staff**

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www.mvbuddhisttemple.org

575 North Shoreline Boulevard
Mountain View, CA 94043



Mountain View Buddhist Temple

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